

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-4 and 13-15; amend claims 1, 5 and 16; and add new claim 17

as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) [A] An Escherichia coli bacterium attenuated by a non-reverting mutation in each of the *aroC* gene, the *ompF* gene and the *ompC* gene.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) [A] An Escherichia coli bacterium according to claim [4] 1 which is a strain of enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC).
6. (Currently Amended) [A] An Escherichia coli bacterium according to claim 1 which is further attenuated by a mutation in a fourth gene.
7. (Currently Amended) [A] An Escherichia coli bacterium according to claim 6 wherein the fourth gene is *aroA*, *aroD*, *aroE*, *pur*, *htrA*, *galE*, *cya*, *crp*, *phoP* or *surA*.
8. (Currently Amended) [A] An Escherichia coli bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the mutation in each gene is a defined mutation.
9. (Currently Amended) [A] An Escherichia coli bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the mutation in each gene is deletion of the entire coding sequence.
10. (Currently Amended) [A] An Escherichia coli bacterium according to claim 1 wh has been genetically engineered to express a heterologous antigen.

11. (Currently Amended) [A] An *Escherichia coli* bacterium according to claim 10, wherein expression of the antigen is driven by the *nirB* promoter or the *htrA* promoter.

12. (Currently Amended) A vaccine comprising [a] an *Escherichia coli* bacterium as defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of raising an immune response in a mammalian host, which comprises administering to the host [a] an *Escherichia coli* bacterium as defined in claim 1 [attenuated by a non-reverting mutation in each of the *aroC* gene, the *ompF* gene and the *ompC* gene].

17. (New) An *Escherichia coli* bacterium according to claim 1 which is PTL003 deposited on September 3, 2001 under accession number 01090302 with the European Collection of Cell Cultures (ECACC).